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Rural District Council of Dartford.

FORTIETH

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1938.

C. M. OCKWELL, M.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), D.P.H. (Camb.)

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Rural District Council of Dartford.

Fortieth Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1938.

To the Members of the Dartford Rural District Council.

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Fortieth Annual Report.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health (part time) :—C. M. OCKWELL, M.D.(Lond.), F.R.C.S.(Eng.), D.P.H.(Camb.).

Deputy Medical Officer (part time) JEAN M. WILSON, M.B., Ch.B. (Glasgow).

Sanitary Inspectors (whole time):—F. SUTCH, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.; T. H. IDDISON, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Pupil Inspector : S. F. HOLLANDS. **Clerk :** H. L. EARL.

Health Visitors (whole time) :—Mrs. LOWE, S.C.M., A.R.San.I.; Miss D. M. BATES, S.R.N., S.C.M., A.R.San.I.; Miss M. E. WALLING, S.R.N., S.C.M., A.R.San.I.

The Council will be aware that much time has been taken up during the year on Air Raid Precautions matters. I think we can claim that no essential matters have been neglected. It explains however, why the Annual Report this year is mainly statistical.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	34,110
Population (Census 1931)	31,253
Resident population	32,770
No. of inhabited houses (about)	9,401
Rateable Value	£205,189
Sum represented by penny rate	£790

		Total	M.	F.		
Live Births	Legitimate	439	219	220	Birth rate of 1,000 of the estimated resident population	13.9
	Illegitimate	16	7	9		
		Total	M.	F.		
Stillbirths	Legitimate	18	9	9	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births	40.1
	Illegitimate	1	1	—		
		19	10	9		
Deaths		336	174	162	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	10.2

General death rate for England and Wales, 11.6.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrars-General's Short List).	From puerperal sepsis	—
	From other puerperal causes ...	2
	Total	2

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	4.2
Death rate of Children under one year of age :—	
All infants per 1,000 live births	41.7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	43.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	210
General death rate of infants under one year of age for England and Wales	53
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	41
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	1

Out of 474 births notified in the district, 157 occurred in Hospitals and 34 in Private Nursing Homes.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.—

During the year the following specimens were sent from this district to the County Laboratory :—

Swabs	...	...	574
Sputa	...	...	86
Others	...	...	9

Ambulance Facilities.—Remain the same as in previous years. The service is adequate.

Nursing in the Home.—There is nothing to note under this heading.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.—Arrangements were completed for treatment of Aural cases at the special Clinic under the Kent County Council at the Dartford County Hospital.

Hospitals.—There is nothing further to note under this heading.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—Two new Clinics were opened at Kingsdown and Hextable. In the former place a new hall had been opened and at the latter it was thought that an extra Clinic was advisable in the Swanley Area. By having this Clinic at Hextable it has saved some mothers long distances to travel.

The attendances at the Infant Welfare Centres were as follows :—

Clinic.		No. of clinics held.		Average attendance.
Ash	...	23	...	20
Longfield	...	24	...	27
Southfleet	...	25	...	20
Stone	...	46	...	33
Horton Kirby	...	26	...	44
Swanley	...	25	...	60
Wilmington	...	25	...	43
Farningham	...	24	...	15
Darenth	...	26	...	52
Kingsdown	...	17	...	20
Hextable	...	19	...	21

Ante-Natal Clinics:—

Clinic.		Total attendances.
Swanley	...	141
Wilmington	...	23
Stone	...	137
Longfield	...	25
Southfleet	...	20
Horton Kirby	...	5
Kingsdown	...	4
"Riseley"	...	42

"RISELEY" MATERNITY HOME, HORTON KIRBY.

A small Maternity Home of 10 beds was opened at "Riseley" in June, 1938. Miss Dorothy Y. Kay was appointed Matron and spent some months preparing the Home before it was opened. She was Sister in charge of the Maternity Ward at "Guys" for four years and was among the first batch to get the Midwives Teacher's Diploma.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR MOTHERS OR CHILDREN.

Health Visitors.

Child Life Protection.—Reports received from the Visitors continue satisfactory and there has been no cause for action.

Arrangements for Dental and Orthopaedic Cases.—Dental and Orthopaedic cases are sent for treatment to the County Hospital, Dartford, under an arrangement with the Kent County Council.

Appointments are made for pre-school children to attend various Ophthalmic Clinics, arrangements being made with the Kent County Council.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—No large extensions of mains were carried out during the year.

Main water supplies by the Metropolitan Water Board and the Mid Kent Water Company. Samples are taken quarterly from these mains and submitted to the County Laboratory. These waters are reported to be bacteriologically an excellent water and well fitted for a public supply. Quality and quantity satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Sewer extensions were carried out in the following parishes :—

1. Stone—Carlton Gardens, Hedge Place Road and Stone Place Road.
2. Eynsford—Crockenhill Housing Site.
3. Horton Kirby—East Hill, South Darenth.
4. Sutton-at-Hone—White Oak Schools, Swanley, 1-12, Heathfield Cottages, Swanley.
5. Wilmington—The Close.

Rivers and Streams.—Inspections were made through the Darenth Valley and no cause for action found.

Closet Accommodation.—During the year 2 cesspools were abolished, 4 repaired, new drainage installed and premises connected to new sewers, where cesspools were abolished.

W.C's discharging into drainage system ...	7,127
W.C's discharging into cesspools	1,867
Pail closets	86
Earth closets	251

Public Cleansing.—Arrangements remain the same.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

	No. in district.	*No. of visits in 1938.*	*No. of faults and defects found.*	*No. of faults and defects remedied.*
Bakehouses	14	35	18	12
Dairies	76	650	85	80
Slaughter houses { Registered ...	—	—	—	—
Slaughter houses { Licensed	12	1,104	41	40
Other food-preparing places which are as such, subject to inspection	9	42	3	3
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—
Common Lodging-houses ...	—	—	—	—
Houses let in lodgings	—	—	—	—
Factories	32	45	15	10
Workshops	6	5	—	—
Workplaces (other than outworkers' homes)	—	—	—	—

Nuisances and defects remedied during the year (other than those enumerated in the above tabulation):—

Overcrowding	26	Refuse Receptacles ...	14
Keeping of Animals	5	Tents, Vans and Sheds ...	53
Hop-pickers' Camps	4	Smoke nuisances	5
Sanitary Accommodation:—		Yard Paving	10
(i) Insufficient	6	Dampness	66
(ii) Defective	26	Roofs and rain water pipes ...	33
Drainage—		Floors	22
(i) Reconstructed ...	36	Walls and ceilings	101
(ii) Repaired	7	Windows and ventilation ...	47
(iii) Cleansed	17	Baths, lavatory basins and sinks	16
Cesspools—		Water supplies	24
(i) Abolished	2		
(ii) Repaired	4		
(iii) Privies abolished ...	—		
Offensive accumulations ...	10		
Miscellaneous	72		

Total number of visits of all kinds paid by Inspectors during the year ... 8,614

Notices served, Statutory ...	19	Informal	288
No. of houses, etc., disinfected ...	79	Batches of clothing ...	80

Shops and Offices.—Preliminary action taken in two cases of shops regarding ventilation and temperature, with satisfactory results.

CAMPING SITES.

2. Sixteen sites in the Dartford Rural District were used for camping purposes during 1938, six of which were in use on Bank Holidays only.

2. Ten licences were issued during the year in respect of camping sites under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

3. Approximately 925 campers were resident in the Dartford Rural District at one time during the summer season.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Informal action regarding new factory at Greenhithe, with satisfactory results. Messrs. Plaster Products, Ltd., were approached regarding excessive smoke and grit emitted from chimney shaft. The boiler plant was so amended to abate the nuisance.

SWIMMING BATH AND POOLS.

There are two swimming pools in the Dartford Rural Area. Three samples of water were taken and found by the County Laboratory to be satisfactory.

ERADICATION OF BUGS.

1. (a) (i) Number of Council houses found to be infested 15.
   (ii) Disinfested 15.
   (b) (i) Number of private houses found to be infested 7.
   (ii) Disinfested 7.

2. Method employed for freeing infested houses is by stripping wall paper, all walls, skirtings, mouldings, frames, etc., are then sprayed with Zaldecide.

3. Any clothing found to be verminous is sent to Bow Arrow Hospital and put through steam disinfector.

4. All the work of disinfestation is carried out by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors.

5. Follow-up visits are made and instructions given to tenants regarding home management to prevent reinfestations.

SCHOOLS.

All schools are provided with main water supply and only in the outlying parishes the drainage is by cesspool.

No serious outbreak occurred during the year in regard to Infectious Diseases. Formal notification is sent to the Head Teacher, giving instructions as to when contacts may return to school.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses **inspected** for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 554

(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose 1835

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were **inspected** and **recorded** under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932. 259

(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose 1177

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 21

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 114

2. Remedy of Defects without service of formal notice :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of **informal** action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... 71

3. Action under Statutory powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 18

(2) Number of dwelling-houses whichwere rendered fit after service of formal notices... ... ...

(a) by Owners 11

(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners ... ... —

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ... 4 (statutory)

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) by Owners 1

(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners ... ... —

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 1

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 21*

* This figure includes 16 demolished by informal action.

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... 3 (rooms)

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined. The tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... —

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV—Overcrowding :—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... 33

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 33

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 226½

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 19

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 26

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 167

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. ... ... —

(e) Of the 26 outstanding overcrowded cases, 18 are Council houses, which have become overcrowded due to children attaining 10 and years, increases in families. In most cases the overcrowding is very slight being only ½ or 1 person per house.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply.**—The following are the graded Milk Producers in the district :

Messrs. Allen & Newman, Wilmington ...	Tuberculin Tested (Cert.)
E. E. Taylor, Kingsdown ...	Tuberculin Tested
D. N. Dallen, Hartley	Tuberculin Tested (Cert.)
W. Alexander, Eynsford	—do—
J. & B. Martin, Horton Kirby	Accredited.
M. T. Fulford, Ash	,,

Monthly inspection is made of all dairies and cowsheds. Two producers were added to the Tuberculin Tested Register, W. Alexander of Eynsford, having one farm producing Tuberculin Tested (Cert.) Milk, two producing Tuberculin Tested Milk and D. N. Dallen producing Tuberculin Tested (Cert.) Miss Davis-Cooke of Hartley has given up her business as an Accredited producer. Samples of milk are taken regularly in accordance with instructions received from the County Medical Officer.

(b) **Meat and Other Foods.**—All carcases are subject to post mortem examination and animals as far as possible to ante-mortem examination previous to slaughter.

No stalls exist in the Dartford Rural Area. All vehicles used as shops are stopped and meat examined.

Routine visits are made to all butcher's shops and food preparing places.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	196	18	108	1341	1622
Number Inspected	196	18	108	1341	1622
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcases Condemned... ...		—	1	5	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	25	4	—	34	24
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	12.8%	22%	.92%	2.9%	1.6%
Tuberculosis only— Whole carcases condemned ...	1	—	—	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	18	3*	—	—	35
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	9.7%	16.7%	—	—	2.3%

*The lungs are thrown away with inedible offal and are not available for inspection. When seen are often tubercular.

(c) **Adulteration.**—No action taken during the year.

(d) **Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.**—No cause for action. All laboratory work is carried out at the County Laboratory.

(e) **Nutrition.**—

(f) **Shell Fish and Other Fish.**—There are no shell-fish beds in the waterside area of the Rural District. All shell fish sold in the area comes from Billingsgate Market.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DESEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1938.

Disease.	*Total Cases notified.*	*Cases admitted to Hospital.*	*Total Deaths.*
Small-pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	95*	41	—
Diphtheria	72*	34	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Pneumonia	6*	—	27
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1*	1	—
Erysipelas	9*	—	—
Polio-myelitis	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ...	2*	—	1
Totals ...	185	76	28

*37 Diphtheria cases, 27 Scarlet Fever cases, 4 cases of Erysipelas, 3 Pneumonia, 2 Cerebro Spinal Meningitis and 1 Puerperal Pyrexia, occurred at Institutions and Hospitals and were either isolated there or sent to Isolation Hospitals outside this area.

It will be noticed that only 34 of the 72 cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted to Hospital. We had no "return" cases.

AGE GROUPS.

Disease.	Under 1 yr.	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	5	8	9	32	14	11	10	5	1	—	95
Diphtheria ...	—	—	3	9	6	30	10	5	8	1	—	—	72
Erysipelas ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	5	9
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	3	6
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Polio-myelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ...	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	2	—	9	17	15	63	25	16	22	6	2	8	185

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION.

Health Visitors make special efforts to get pre-school children and school children to attend the Infant Welfare Centres for diphtheria immunization. The prophylactic used is mostly A.P.T., 0.1cc is given as a first injection followed by 0.5cc as the second, after a lapse, in the majority of cases of 14 days.

During the year the following were the numbers of children immunized at the various Clinics :—

Clinic	Pre-school Children.	School Children.
Ash	26	30
Darenth	8	10
Farningham	20	19
Hextable	10	6
Horton Kirby	4	15
Kingsdown	18	9
Longfield	32	58
Southfleet	17	15
Stone	8	6
Stone (Bean Schools) ...	—	18
Swanley	6	18
Wilmington	4	2
Totals ...	153	206

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.—No action was taken.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

CASES.			*Vision unimpaired.*	*Vision impaired.*	*Total Blindness.*	*Deaths.*
Notified.	*Treated.*					
	At Home	*In Hospital*				
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, and Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.—No cause for action.

Age Periods.	*New Cases.*				*Deaths.*			
	Pulmonary.		*Non-Pulmonary.*		*Pulmonary.*		*Non-Pulmonary.*	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
20—25	3	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
25—35	2	2	—	1	2	1	—	—
35—45	4	2	—	—	1	2	1	1
45—55	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55—65	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	15	7	—	2	8	6	1	1

Ratio of non-notified deaths to total Tuberculosis deaths, 1 to 8.

Enquiries are made where notifications have not been made.

Doctors are written to when there have been oversights.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises. (1)	*Number of* Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories with mechanical power ...	45	10	—
Factories without mechanical power ...	5	—	—
Other premises under the Act	—	—	—
Totals ...	50	10	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	*Number of Defects.* Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	*Number of Prosecutions.*
Want of Cleanliness	6	6	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences: Insufficient ...	2	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences: Unsuitable or defective	2	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences: Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences	5	4	—	—
Total ...	15	10	—	—

I am,

Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. M. OCKWELL.